

FREE * AIR

A Publication of "The Association of Clandestine Radio Enthuslast"

AUGUST, 1988

Keith Thibodeaux Returns as Publisher of A*C*E After One Year Absence

After an absence of one year, Keith J. Thibodeaux is again publishing the A*C*E newsletter. Keith relinquished his post as publisher last year, citing increasing work pressure from two start-up businesses as the reason for handing over those duties to William Martin of Wilmington, Delaware. During the course of Bill Martin's year of publishing "The A*C*E newsletter," he too fell victim to a dramatically increased workload. With the resulting tighter schedule, Martin succumbed to the same pressure

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that overcame the first two publishers, Keith Thibodeaux, and founder Darren Leno. It became impossible to keep the publication on schedule.

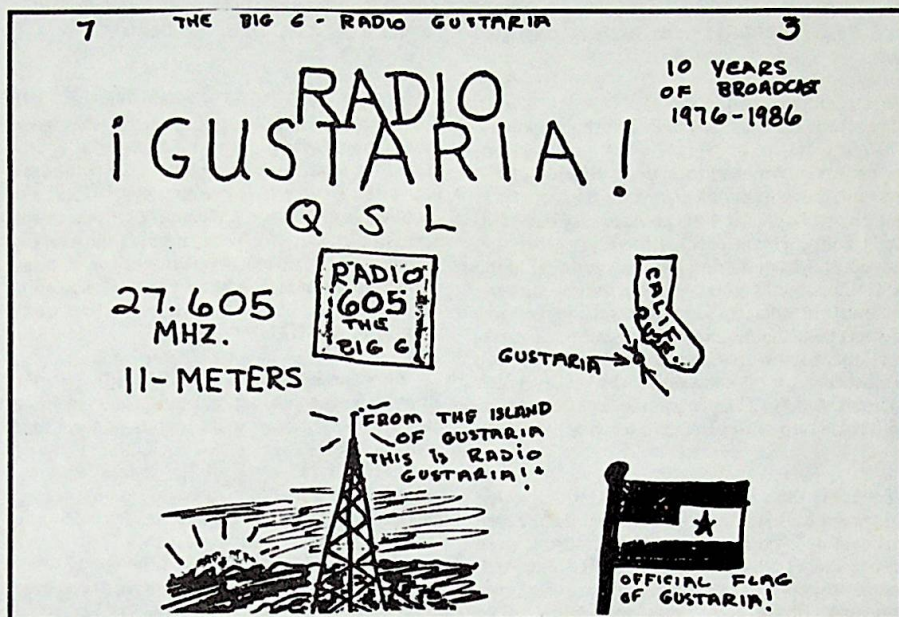
As with most volunteer-based projects, a continuous circulation of "new blood" is necessary to keep the flow of energy high. It was a surprise to everyone involved when Keith Thibodeaux offered to resume publication duties after a total absence from the hobby. "I have closed one company, have a very limited role in the other and returned to a one-person consulting business. There is a more time to do the things I really enjoy, like publishing the A*C*E. With the desktop publishing equipment that I own, as well as the telecommunications capabilities of most of our editors, we can easily have the most advanced advanced radio club and most attractive radio newsletter in the world. Our BBS set the standard for the hobby and now so will our newsletter. I simply plan to finish implementing what I started two years ago," said Keith.

Bill Martin will continue to handle back issue sales of the A*C*E.

A*C*E back issues are still available for \$1.00 per issue plus postage. If you are interested in obtaining back issues contact Bill at the following address: Bill Martin, P.O. Box 1744, Wilmington, DE 19899. Many of the A*C*E back issues are in short supply, so complete your collection now. All proceeds from back issue sales go to the club treasury. Allow four weeks for delivery.

ALL A*C*E MEMBERS WILL HAVE TWO MONTHS ADDED TO THEIR SUBSCRIPTION.

How to read your mailing label? On the right of your name is a four digit number. The first two digits represent the year and the next two represent the month in which your subscription expires.



New Name, New Format, Columns Changes, Almost New Publisher - What's Next? New Pirates?

Surely you have already noticed the very different newsletter. Well, folks, I really went out on a limb on this one. All this is changed because the A*C*E is practically starting over again. It is now the middle of August and I have only two regular columns to print Dialogs and Clandestine Confidential. Nothing else has arrived here yet, so in a sense, these changes are out of necessity. But there really is a lot more to it than that. The ACE is at a turning point.

The New Name. Our magazine has always been called by the initials of our club, A*C*E. This has on occasion led to minor confusion, but the real reason for the name change is that it is time that our publication had a real name. One which portrays the nature of the stations we seek to hear. What better name than "FREE AIRE", standing both for free airwaves and free press.

The New Format. The format change addresses several recognized problems. Subscribers have long complained that our publication is hard to read at times. In the past, we could not address this without providing less information. Desktop publishing, however, enables us to use typesetting techniques, which means that the letters are more

efficiently spaced. The end result is more information in less space. Readability is increased by both the clarity of type and the three column layout. The publication is easier to construct, thanks again to the advent of desktop publishing, specifically Ventura Publisher. It is cheaper to print, staple and mail. Forth, it is easier for readers to store for reference. Just punch and place in a three ring binder.

At the end of each year we will provide an annual index for the front and my "Computer Cross-Reference to Pirate Broadcast." This will be formatted much like past "Guide to North American Pirate Activity. Fifth, and last, it is more professional looking and will attract more readers (that means members). A larger club means more loggings, news, longer newsletters, etc.

What's up (or down) with the columns? Lani Pettit is resigning her editing post. The "Spy Centre" column will be replaced by a similar column but with several significant changes. Bill Martin's "Technicalities" may reappear in the next few months as things settle down in Delaware. Kirk Baxter's "Dialogs," John Arthur's "Veried Response" and "The Directory" and George Zeller's "Clandestine Profile." Andrew O'Briens's "Clandestine Report" will be incorporated into Zeller's column. An "11 Meters Up" column should come on-line in a month or so. At this time, it appears that we will have some additional space in the bulletin. I am totally open to suggestions regarding its use.

Please note the A*C*E is once again using its former address of P.O. Box 46199, Baton Rouge, LA 70895-6199. Use this address for membership dues, articles, and other correspondence with the club. This address is NOT a mail drop KJT

DIALOGS

By Kirk Baxter

Contributions to the loggings column are gratefully accepted by the deadline of the 15th of each month. Loggings are preferred on logging forms which are available for a SASE. Contributions should be sent to: P.O.B. 3436, Peoria, IL 61614. Contributions can also be left on the ANARC BBS at (309) 688-0604, in the ACE message section.

Welcome back to the A*C*E. I would like to start off the column this month with an apology. The A*C*E, like every hobby publication, depends on volunteers to write, edit, and publish its bulletins. At times, everyone has occasions when work, or family life becomes very busy, and one's hobby gets a rest. I have just recently moved, and started a new job. As president of the A*C*E, I should have been able to help with the bulletin, but with the move, and settling in, I was just too unavailable. My apologies to the membership. I know that the double issue that Bill published last month was one of the best ever, and I know the A*C*E will continue that fine quality with the return of Keith Thibodeaux as publisher.

To clarify the address for the A*C*E (now that things are back on track), to contact me for club business or loggings, use the new address given above; P.O.B. 3436, Peoria, IL 61614. For ALL renewals, replacement issues, and subscription concerns, PLUS any newspaper clippings or QSLs that you'd like to have published in the A*C*E, use the address of: P.O.B. 46199, Baton Rouge, LA 70895-6199. For the package deal of old A*C*E issues that Bill Martin mentioned in the last double issue, contact him directly at: P.O.B. 1744, Wilmington, DE 19899.

As the above masthead indicates, the ACE BBS has also undergone some transformations. As the first ANARC club with its own BBS, we are now representing ALL ANARC clubs as the ANARC BBS. The A*C*E still has its own sub-boards contained within, and loggings area, but there are also areas for many of the other ANARC clubs. The phone number for our new operation is (309) 688-0604.

Now on to this month's loggings. Remember, that as fall approaches, pirate activity should increase again. Also, band conditions on 41 meters have vastly improved over the same time last year. Listening is getting better all the time, so dust off the radios, and send in your contributions.

KNBS: 7413v, 7/3, *0253-0333*, SIO=343+. ID as "KNBS, Cannibals 41, The Station With Your Mind In Mind." OM anncr reviewed 3 books on marijuana. Song "I Like Marijuana." Listeners urged to plant marijuana seeds in front of Federal buildings. Anncr Phil Muzik says "Just say 'no' to Nancy Reagan." Brief appearance by Genghis Huxley of Voice of Laryngitis. Lengthy Reagan parody. Ad for deodorant. Phony Mazda ad. Snoopy gets high. Farting violinist. Decent signal, but bad FMing. ECSS impossible - good reception in FM mode on rcvr. Down to 7409.1 by QRT. BC address. (ZELLER,OH) 7412, 7/3, 0254-0332, SIO=444. Pgm featured Raunchy Rick of Tangerine Radio. Played mx abt marijuana. Discussed making beer from

marijuana. Frequent jingle of "with your mind in mind." (TROMP,MI) 7412, 7/3, 0257-0332. Usual pro-marijuana rock songs & commentary abt government laws/regulations re: drugs. Spoofs included presidential speech w/ Reagan sounding very stoned. Commercials. Very good signal. (SACHS,IL) 7412.5 -7409, 7/3, 0304-0332, SIO=211. Very poor, distorted audio on this xmsn. Xmtr was severely overmodulated and/or overdriven, w/ a downward carrier drift and FMing. Almost unintelligible speech except for stn ID and BC addr. Lost at 0332. (GARRITY,NY)

KRVR: 7414, 7/10, 0534-0704. ID as KRVR, River Radio. Medium to strong signals, good modulation. Many IDs by OM DJs. Best contained mx from a wide variety of groups like the Ramones, Devo, Elvis Presley, Herb Alpert and even Michael Jackson. Wanted listeners to call 555-1212 in your area code, gave no address, but before sign off talked about the drought in the midwest and said they were located in the great northwest where there is never any shortage of rain. (RALEIGH,NV)

Radio Clandestine: 7415, 6/19, 0257-0349. RF Burns as anncr playing rock mx. Message about atomic clock. Commercial for monolith phone system. PSE QSL. (SACHS,IL) 7415, 6/19, *0300-0353*, SIO=333. RF Burns w/ usual pgming except that there seemed to be more mx and less humor than in prior bcsts. Mx selections included "All Along the Watchtower," "No Time," "Cold as Ice," "The Weight," and "Imagine," which was interrupted in the middle and then replayed in its entirety. A salute to Samantha Smith was aired at the end of the bcst. No QSL info. (GARRITY,NY) 7415v, 6/19, 0305-0353*, SIO=343. Anncr RF Burns claimed this to be a live show. Various rock mx by Hendrix, Bowie, Guess Who, Foreigner, etc. Ad for nuclear power plant. Apparent problem with tape of John Lennon's "Imagine" made claim of live show unlikely. Skit of Steve Martin as a dentist in "Another Look at Life - or Something Vaguely Resembling It." RF Burns said show was in stereo, but xmtr not yet in stereo but there are future plans for stereo xmtr. Drifty VFO. No addr. Pretty good signal w/99% copy. (ZELLER,OH) 7412, 6/27, *0057-0158*, SIO=444-343. Identical tape of 6/19 bcst. Probably same xmtr w/ warbly VFO and slight downward drift. Stn must run ads to pay for Drool the cabin boy's large beer bill. Identical dead air and replay of "Imagine" as in last bcst. Show went slightly longer than prior week as it included IS at end. (ZELLER,OH) 7411.8, 6/27, 0117-0245*, SIO=322/545(after 0200). First part of bcst was repeat of 6/19 logging. At 0200, another pgm started, perhaps from another xmtr site, since the signal was massive - S9 + 50dB. This bcst had songs "Johnny Kisoff," "A Fungus Among Us," "Too Young to Date" and "Psychochicken." RF Burns. What a signal! (GARRITY,NY) 7412.2, 6/27, *0159-0245*, SIO=444+. S/on right after other xmsn s/off. Kinko the Clown and other comedy skits. Ads for Squeeze Jockstraps and Industrial Strength Baby Scrubber. Sudden QRT mid-song about pet vampire. Better signal than 0100 xmsn, with more stable xmtr. No addr on either show. (ZELLER,OH)

Radio Garbanzo: 7415.0, 5/29, 0358-0418, SIO=555. Male anncr playing rock mx described by him as the "music FM used to play." Played some satire-type commercials like "Superglue Hairspray" and one for "Michael Jackson." At one point the anncr said they had to let eqmt cool

off. IDed the stn several times during bcst. Stn went off at 0418 after IS with what sounded like birdcalls. Signal was clear and strong with just a little CW interference. Gave addr of POB 5074, Hilo, Hawaii. (ROGOVICH,VA)

Secret Mountain Laboratory: 7412, 7/3, 0332-0422. Both SML and KNBS were bcsting at the same time, same freq. Country songs. Steve Goodman song abt mail order buying. Commercial for chinchillas, Homer & Jethro - Duckworth Chant. Excellent signal. (SACHS,IL) 7411.8, 7/3, *0333-0424*, SIO=343. OM S/on anncmt over instr mx after two country songs by YL singers. Hilo addr. Parody of Spiro Agnew. Stand up comic discussed policemen. Little copy after a bad fade at 0353 until faded back in at 0413 w/ picnic time for Mr. Potatohead. 6 flags over Burbank. Youth sex by Fireside Theater. (ZELLER,OH) 7412, 7/3, 0334-0406, SIO=233. Claimed to be bcsting from Hilo, HI. Pgm consisted of bluegrass, folk & comedy routines. Hilo addr. (TROMP,MI) 7411.7, 7/3, *0339-0424*, SIO=423. Special holiday weekend bcst from SML. Played offbeat mx. "Uncle Ho" "Elvis Imitator Song" etc. Enjoyable w/ good signal. (GARRITY,NY)

Voice of Bob: 7426.2, 7/3, 1523-1544*, SIO=252. Extremely hectic and fast-paced show, appears identical to ones I've heard before. Fast talking evangelists tout the amazing properties of J. R. "Bob" Dobbs, The cartoon-faced Ward-Cleaver-like character with the pipe. Bob is gifted w/ mystic sales ability. OM puts hand on radio and is healed by Bob. Talk show callers praise Bob, men in the street interviewers praise Bob. Donald Duck synthesized voice at 1543 gives ID and Hilo addr. Without a doubt, the most bizarre pirate on the air! (ZELLER,OH)

WYMN: 7425.7, 7/2, 2343-0016*, SIO=322. Stn played mx (folk/country type) by female artists. (Maybe Emmylou Harris) Anncd as "WYMN, High voices, deep significance" and "WYMN, where the girls are women and the boys are out to lunch." Severe QRM after 2355 when V of Greece s/on on 7430. Hilo addr given. (GARRITY,NY)

UNID, 7412.5, 6/18, 0300-0315*, SIO=211. Stn played several Led Zeppelin songs "Whole Lotta Love" and another unknown one. Thanked the listeners in anncmt at end of bcst, but I couldn't make out an ID due to extreme atmospheric QRM and RTTY/SSB QRM. No QSL info hrd. (GARRITY,NY)

That wraps it up for another month. My thanks to all the above contributors for hanging in with the club while the newsletter was slow in getting out. If it weren't for you, there would be no loggings column. To everyone else in the A*C*E: There IS activity out there to be heard. Turn your radio on and tune in, and write with your loggings. 73s until next month.

THE ANARC BBS
formerly the ACE BBS

Phone #1-309-688-0604

7 Days a week, 24 hours

Clandestine Profile

by George Zeller

CLANDESTINE COLUMN RETURNS

Welcome back to the A*C*E Clandestine Profile column. It is very good news that Keith Thibodeaux has found the time to resume his role as A*C*E publisher. Many thanks also go to Bill Martin in Delaware for his time-consuming work as publisher over the last year, even though he was busy with many other things. During the last couple of months there has been a lot of news and activity on the clandestine front. I was able to get timely copies of this column to all contributors during the summer, and now we are completely up to date in the regular printed A*C*E bulletins. Your contributions of clandestine information, loggings, news, tips, and analysis are always welcome. They can be sent as usual to your editor in Cleveland. We have lots of good information this month, so let's get right into it.

CUBA INDEPENDIENTE Y DEMOCRATICA - RADIO AND TV

The long-running anti-Castro La Voz de Cuba Independiente y Democratica network remains with us. The top news here this month is that they are planning a clandestine television station to compete with the forthcoming TV Marti for USIA. The August 8 issue of Newsweek reported this very interesting fact in its "Periscope" column. The magazine article does not mention CID specifically, but they do report that "Cuban exiles" led by "station operator Huber Matos, Jr." have equipped "a 50 foot fishing boat" with television broadcasting equipment. They plan to use it for "anti-Castro TV broadcast from...off the Florida coast." The Newsweek article says that FCC personnel intend to confiscate both the boat and the TV transmitter "if the pirate station goes on the air." Matos, who of course sits at the top of CID's leadership, was unfazed by the threatened bust. He said that the broadcasts would encourage passive resistance in Cuba and "will provide ideological ammunition for the people." In relationship to the RNYI-style of maritime bust threat, Matos was quoted as saying that he was ready to take the risk.

South Florida A*C*E members should keep their eyes on the TV dials for this one. In a recent RIB, I remember Glenn Hauser speculating that the new TV Marti might use the regionally vacant VHF channel 8, since UHF television sets are rare in Cuba. TV CID might beat them to it. If they do it soon, even outside Florida you might look out for E-skip on channel 8. This form of TV skip has been pretty good this summer at times, and I even once picked up a Cuban TV station in Ashland, Ohio on channel 2.

As we reported in last month's column, CID has settled their 31 meter frequency slightly above 9940 khz. As I am writing this column, I'm listening to their broadcast in the daytime on 9941.8 // 11635.1 khz. I spoke with Don Moore of Ohio recently. Don reports (VIA an item in "The Radio News") that CID's Venezuelan address has been changed to Apartado 76633, Caracas 1070-EL Marques, Venezuela.

RADIO IMPACTO

The quasi-clandestine and quasi-licensed station, which has murky but well established ties with the CIA, continues to transmit much anti-Sandinista programming. Its recent good signal on 5030 khz was missing early in June because it moved unexpectedly to what would otherwise be its first harmonic, 10060 khz, where it was widely heard. By the end of June, this experiment ended, and the station went back down to 5030. Then, on August 5 I noticed that it was once again missing on 5030 khz. A quick search location it on 10005 khz. Something is going on here. They probably selected 5030 in the first place because it avoided SWBC QRM on their old 49 meter frequency, and because it is adjacent to Cuba's Radio Rebelde shortwave relay on 5025. Why they are now playing around near the 30 meter ham and aeronautical band (and near WWV platter) is anybody's guess, although they have been general-ly in the clear here when they use this band.

VOICE OF TOMORROW

For the last two issues, Kirk Baxter's A*C*E column has contained various Voice of Tomorrow (VOT) loggings. This station operated sporadically like a pirate, but its extraordinarily harsh and professionally produced Fascist programming makes it the only real clandestine station that beams English language programming to North America. A couple of things about this station have popped up recently that warrant mention in the Clandestine Profile column.

My analysis of back A*C*E issues shows that the VOT has made at least 44 different transmissions since they went on the air by replacing Radio Vanguard International in June of 1983. I normally do not mention suspected or known pirate QTH's in this column for obvious reasons, and because of the philosophy of most A*C*E members (including me) toward FCC bust. However, when information is publicly printed elsewhere, and is already available to the FCC, we can't stick our heads in the sand by ignoring it. We have that sort of data this month.

During the VOT's recent July 17 broadcast on 15039.5 khz around 1500 UTC, the FCC DF'd the transmitter QTH to 37d 40m North, 79d 58m West. This would put it somewhere in the Roanoke-Lynchburg area of Virginia on the occasion. (I assume that this is totally coincidental with Jerry Falwell's Lynchburg QTH that relays Radio Liberation to Central America.) The DF data was printed in the #967 Numero Uno newsletter of July 21. The NU report suggested that the FCC is now interested in VOT tips, despite the fact that they curiously seem to have ignored them for the last five years. However, I heard another tip from an extremely knowledgeable and reliable (but anonymous and unconfirmed) source that the FCC was ignoring ALL pirates in July because they had been ordered by officials in Washington to concentrate heavily on measurements of Cuban QRM to Radio Marti and WAQI in Miami. (We still have hard core right-wingers running much of the federal government.)

This is all very interesting indeed. The NU newsletter contained apparently unsubstantiated rumors the VOT is "most likely run by Nat'l Socialist White People's Party (of Va.) or the

Order, who killed a Jewish talk-show personality." I have no proven reason to believe that these rumors are true, but I intend to look into this whole business shortly.

RADIO LIBERTAD CUBANA Y RADIO FILIPE DE LA CRUZ

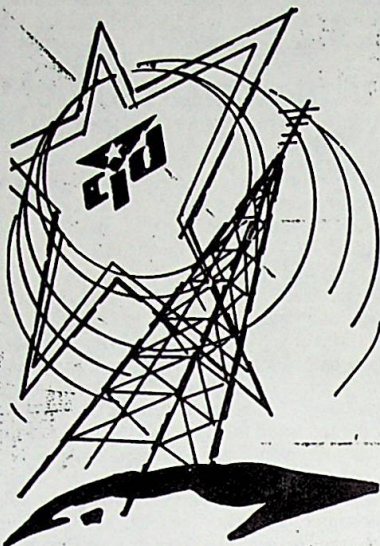
Last month we mentioned that Commandante David's station is back. Your editor can confirm this. I heard them June 11 at 0118-0134* on 7051.5 khz with brass band music, clear ID's (as above), and anti-Cuban government talk by a man in Spanish. La Voz de Alpha 66 was blasting away simultaneously on 6666.6 khz (not in //), so these stations are obviously run by different anti-Castro groups in Florida. As I write in mid-August, I have yet to see a good QSL address for this one yet. Gerry Dexter reports in his Clandestine Confidential book that in 1980, the FCC "raided" the station, and identified Commandante David as Jose Gonzales of Hialeah, Florida. Gerry says that this "raid" was suspected by many of being a hoax perpetrated by the FCC and CIA, since they did not really want to bust an anti-Castro clandestine, and that "Gonzales" could very well have been a phony alias. Their 1988 resurrected signal on the low CW end of the 40 meter ham band has been somewhat variable in frequency, both from night to night, and during the program with a slight upward drift.

RADIO LIBERACION/RADIO QUINCE DE SEPTIEMBRE

Last month's reports of two very similar (yet different) programs from the USA-funded Contra clandestines can be confirmed by your editor. My own logs show that the 6214.4 // 5924.4 khz program around 0030 UTC uses both Liberacion and Quince ID's, but that the 5889.1 khz around 0230 (not // to the other two frequencies) IS's only as Radio Liberacion. Both programs have been less well heard here in Cleveland during August, due to both poor propagation on this path, and the resurrection of Radio Caroline 558 QRM on 6215 khz. (P.S. Does anybody know what that loud rumble is underneath Radio Caroline and/or its carrier? It is similar in sound to a loud UTE rumble that I hear on 8000 khz every night.)

UNIDENTIFIED ANTI-CUBAN CLANDESTINE

I heard a strange one on June 11 from 0020-0034* on 6665.0 khz in USB. The program consisted of clandestine-style anti-Cuban talks by a man in Spanish and some Cuban vocal music. The station left the air in mid-song, and did not return that night. I heard no ID's, unfortunately. It definitely was not Alpha 66, which was on 6666.6 in AM as usual later that night. I spoke with one of our reliable but anonymous A*C*E members about this, who told me that Dr. John Santosuosso of Monitoring Times apparently thought that broadcasts like this one were semi-tactical communications in Nicaragua. However, I heard a program here, not a tactical QSO. Also, the program was about Cuba, not Nicaragua. Has anybody else been hearing this one?



LA VOZ DEL CID

Cuba Independiente y Democrática

certificado de sintonía

A KEITH J. THIBODEAUX
 QUIEN NOS SINTONIZO EL DIA 24 de octubre de 1983
 DE LAS 01.00 GMT, A LAS EMISORA: Antonio Guiteras
 EN LAS BANDAS DE 40 MTS. FRECUENCIA 7352.5 kHz

REPORT FROM ANDREW O'BRIEN - A*C*E WORLD CORRESPONDENT

Much of Andrew O'Brien's material from Europe was printed in last month's bulletin. However, Andrew has also checked in with a few other logs from European shortwave magazines. The June 1988

R a d i o
Electronics
 reported the Sudan Peoples's Armed Forces station "National Unity Radio" on 9435 khz at 1440-1503*. Also, this magazine reported the anti-Afghanistan "Voice of Unity" at around 1535 UTC on 15685 //17540 khz from a presumed

transmitter QTH in Egypt. (This one has also been heard in North America.) The magazine also reports good reception in Europe of various CID frequencies. Andrew said that the 7380 khz CID signal was audible in England on his rig.

In Gerry Dexter's June 1988 edition of his Clandestine Confidential newsletter, he reported that the GUNT organization that has operated the Libyan-based

anti-Chad clandestine "Radio Bardai" was mentioned as defunct in the March/April newsletter of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya. However, Andrew O'Brien sends us an article from the May 1988 issue of Practical Wireless, which says that Radio Bardai "returned to the airwaves at the end of February," using 6009 khz at 1100 and 1800 UTC for French, Arabic and

Radio Al-Quds, a MW/FM clandestine broadcasting to Palestinians from a presumed Syria QTH on 702 khz MW // 96.7 and 105.4 mhz FM. They use Arabic and some English; they have a synthesized "Turkey in the Straw" interval signal, and they ID as "Al Quds, the Palestinian Broadcasting Station for the Liberation of Land and Man."

Please send clandestine loggings, press clippings, QSL data, and other clandestine related information to:

Clandestine Profile
George Zeller
3492 West 123rd Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Home Phone (216) 941-3366, Work Phone (216) 696-9077

vernacular language programming. The Practical Wireless article says that the station QTH is Libya, and that the station ID has been changed to "Radio Chad, Voix de la Revolution." When winter propagation returns, the 100 broadcast might be worth a try for North American DX-ers.

Andrew also forwards an article from the May 1988 Shortwave Magazine on

IRAN FLAG OF FREEDOM RADIO

This one has been widely reported in North America lately. Andrew O'Brien heard it in Europe on 15555 khz on June 1 at 1630 UTC. It's a little variable lately, being heard as high as 15560v khz at times.

WHEW AND THANKS!

We had a lot of stuff this month that had been piling up. I thank Andrew O'Brien of the Eastern Hemisphere and some other anonymous contributors who stuck with us during the recent long A*C*E vacation. Now that we are back in business and better than ever, I look forward to hearing from everybody again. Cleveland awaits your clandestine news - send it in.

A*C*E at a Crossroads: Can We Survive?

By Jim Garrity

Since its creation by Darren Leno in March of 1982, the A*C*E Newsletter has been the definitive publication for those individuals who are interested in the Free Radio Movement. These are the folks who have the audacity to believe that the airwaves belong to ALL the people, and not just the corporations which use them solely for commercial profit. No, the A*C*E Newsletter has never been a "pretty" publication, and the paper that it is printed on has never been the glossy, satiny type that you find in most national magazines, but over the past six and one-half years, this bulletin has been THE journal of record for anyone who has even a cursory interest in the monitoring of the world of unlicensed, unusual, unexplained and unofficial radio broadcasting. In short, when anyone wants the latest in UP-TO-DATE and ACCURATE information on the pirate and clandestine radio scene, including some publishers of those slick, glossy national publications, the place to look is A*C*E for the news; we don't look to anyone else.

So why, then is the A*C*E as an organization at a crossroads? Well, I believe that we, as members of this organization, have a largely mistaken impression as to what our yearly check to A*C*E is buying us. The present \$12.00 yearly membership dues are just that—DUES TO A CLUB THAT WE ARE MEMBERS OF!! It is NOT the same as a fee for the price of a magazine subscription, where you are paying for a specific number of issues which are composed and edited by a select group of people whose main goal is to sell magazines and advertisements. There is nothing wrong with this, but understand that you as a reader have little, if anything to say vis-a-vis the content of said magazine, except possibly your submission to a "Letters to the Editors Column." Beyond this, if you don't like what is contained in the magazine, you simply don't buy it anymore. End of conversation!

The content of the A*C*E Newsletter, on the other hand is the reflection of the efforts, thoughts, ideas, and opinions of YOU and your fellow members of this club. We as an organization cannot survive in a vacuum. Our Publisher and our columnist depend almost entirely on YOUR input to keep this forum active. Kirk Baxter cannot "make up" pirate radio broadcast loggings if no members bother to send theirs in. John Arthur, who has plenty of opinions of his own, still he needs your input of ideas, observations, opinions, and comments on the Free Radio Scene to counter or reinforce his viewpoints and round out his column. He also needs to hear what pirate stations are or are not verifying your QSL reports. Where else can you get the latest information on pirate QSL addresses and verification policies? The answer is, of course, in NO other publication. Ditto George Zeller, Andrew O'Brien, and any and all who edit a column for the A*C*E, including our new (old) publisher, Keith Thibodeaux. We, as members, cannot simply sit back and wait for our monthly bulletins to arrive in our mailboxes without contributing as much as we possibly can in the way of pertinent information which might be of interest to our fellow members. Without this effort, we will simply cease to exist as a club and a publication.

While on the subject of contributions, let me bring up another topic which needs to be addressed by the membership. In Bill Martin's farewell comment as publisher of the A*C*E, he related to us the necessity to spend, out of his own pocket, fifty dollars or so per month to subsidize the costs of producing the newsletter. During Keith Thibodeaux's first two years of publishing the A*C*E he contributed in excess of three hundred dollars to the treasury. The question must be asked: Why should anyone who accepts the job of publisher have to use their own money to put out a newsletter which is the written voice of a group of members? In these times where fiscal responsibility is in the news daily, and is even a Presidential campaign issue, how can we in good conscience allow any one individual to shoulder this burden? After all, the time and labor that goes into the composition of the newsletter and all of the columns contained therein are all volunteer efforts—nobody gets paid for working for the A*C*E in any capacity. To additionally ask them to spend an inordinate amount of their own money towards this end is very unfair. Well, Bill Martin suggested that maybe we should scale down the size of the newsletter. I don't feel that this is a valid option, since even if the A*C*E were only one or two pages long, the first class postage is the same for one or six pages. We would simply get less newsletter for the same money. If we were to decide to publish the A*C*E less often, say every other month, the information contained therein would be stale and far less useful. To me, either option is quite unacceptable. No, as I see it, if we as members want to keep the A*C*E a viable entity as both a club and publication, we may well have to pay a bit more each month for it. Again, the A*C*E must be financially self sufficient on its own merits. Unlike the various communications magazines on the market, we do not own ancillary publishing or equipment companies whose product we can promote within the pages of our bulletin. We do not carry third party advertising of any kind. There isn't anything wrong with any of these methods of raising revenues, mind you, but it should be kept in mind that without these sources of income, the nationally published magazines would not survive either. They wouldn't last a month if they couldn't depend on advertising revenues.

So, to sum up this article, I believe that we A*C*E members might expect a dues increase to make the club financially sound. I would like to suggest to Keith that he do a cost analysis of the monthly expenditures necessary to publish the bulletin, and that he then publish the results, so that we may see what the true cost of the newsletter is. And one final point: How many of you answered Bill Martin's plea for help with his publishing duties in the April issue? Obviously Keith did. I know I did. We can and must help out when we are asked to, to insure that we will always receive our monthly bulletins in a timely manner. For one thing is certain, if we cannot manage to get this publication out to its members in an orderly, smooth, regular and timely fashion, then our credibility as a valid and reliable source of information will be forever damaged, despite all of our past accomplishments.

Publisher Response!

The article above by Jim is an excellent one and addresses many important points. The time is long overdue to take appropriate action to remediate several major issues.

LATE AND MISSING ISSUES. I am no stranger to this problem. During my prior commission as publisher there was one occasion where one monthly issue was missed and several others where the bulletin was substantially late. There are times when other factors in one's life must be given priority over the A*C*E. An issue being on time involves approximately six to ten people getting their act together each month. Most issues should be on time, with one or two each year running a little late (one to two weeks.) There really is no excuse for missing an issue. Over the last four years our organization has been lax. I plan, to the limit of my powers, to get the A*C*E back to the pinnacle of this hobby. My suggestion for a workable time schedule is as follows:

15th of the month - Deadline for getting material to editors

25th of the month - All material should be in publisher's hands

1st of next month - A*C*E should be in the mail

As noted above, this is a suggestion, and I am awaiting feedback from our editors as to its feasibility.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY - First of all, membership rates are going to rise. We have held our \$12.00 membership for three years despite inflation and an increase in first class postage rates. Effective with this issue the annual membership will be \$15.00 for members in the US, its possessions and Canada, and \$20.00 for foreign members. Even with this increase, the A*C*E is still one of the most economical clubs in the country. Subtracting the cost of postage, our members will be paying exactly \$1.00 per month for A*C*E membership. Even considering the entire amount of \$15.00, it only cost \$1.25 per month to have the A*C*E delivered to your door, about the same as a couple of candy bars. To further enhance our position on fiscal responsibility, the A*C*E will begin keeping financial books the same as a company and a detailed annual report will be published in the A*C*E so that all members may see exactly where the money goes.

FUTURE GROWTH - The dramatic change in quality you have noticed in this issue is just the beginning of the "New A*C*E." We have long had the resources to far outdistance all other clubs in our hobby. Now we will put those resources to work. In addition to our professional new newsletter and our superb telecommunications network, we will embark on a series of publicity campaigns to enlarge our membership. We plan to double our membership each twelve months. How? First, by an extensive letter writing campaign. Second, by producing a cassette tape with club information interspersed with studio and over-the-air recordings of past pirate broadcast to be distributed on a cost basis via classified ads in other publications and equipment sales companies. The best way to get someone interested in pirate/ clandestine broadcasting is to give them a sample of the great things out there to be heard. Third, establishment of an ambassador program, whereby selected volunteers will be provided A*C*E promotional information for their local area ham fests, radio events, college campuses/radio stations, etc. I am excited about the future of A*C*E, you should be also. Get involved.

The following messages of interest to our subscribers were copied from the ANARC (A*C*E) BBS. KJT.

Msg#:12001 *FREE RADIO*
05/07/88 04:43:18 (Read 38 Times)
From: JOHN PINCKNEY
To: ALL
Subj: ANOTHER CLANDESTINE?

Caught an item on WTOP-1500's feed of CBS' "World News Roundup" that says the CIA is contemplating clandestine broadcasts as a part of the U.S. effort to oust Panamanian General Noriega. Soooo... maybe we should be on the lookout soon for yet another clandestine. Perhaps this one will have some EE as well. While not exactly FREE RADIO, I thought since it'll be a clandestine, it should be here. 73

Msg#:12476 *FREE RADIO*
05/25/88 02:49:01 (Read 28 Times)
From: RICH CALCOM
To: ALL
Subj: HELLO OUT THERE????

Is there anyone else who monitors from the Los Angeles area...especially the San Fernando Valley.....If so..let me know..... Am I the only one???

Free Radio is getting very active here in the SF valley.....REC Radio Devonshire is now on 1200kHz and KDLU is back on 87.9!! We will see you on the air in Los Angeles!

Msg#:13486 *FREE RADIO*
07/08/88 02:05:32 (Read 15 Times)
From: RICH CALCOM
To: ALL
Subj: WATTS UP IN LA!

KFUN is back on the air!!! If anyone remembers this old classic local pirate from many moons ago (say about 3 years) remembers SONO and probably one of the best pirates I have ever heard. KFUN has been the center of a lot of controversy.... at a meeting of local (licensed) broadcasters here in LA... complaints were made against KFUN although no FCC action has been taken. KFUN is known for it's alternative programming with records like TOO DRUNK TO F**K. you get the point??? KFUN is reported to be about 20 to 50 w on 91.9. KREC has been heard again all over the dial... 1200AM, 1500AM, 27.335kHz, 89.1, 91.9, 92.7, 98.3.....not all at once of course.....this guy can't find a place to stay.

Bad news KRMS! KPPC (yeah, a licensed jobbie) decreased power on 89.3 but jumped their antenna to MT WILSON..... A nice 4000' antenna raising party for Pasadena Community College!!! causing RUCKUS on 89.1 for KREC, and 89.5 for KRMS!!!!

What happened to KDLU???????? Will we ever know???

Msg#:13997 *FREE RADIO*
07/24/88 09:09:19 (Read 17 Times)
From: ROBERT HORVITZ
To: ALL
Subj: NEW US-BACKED CLAND?

Thanks to Eddie Becker for sending the following Associated Press dispatch. It's probably copyrighted, but arrived without (c)-mark or date:

. By JOSEPH B. FRAZIER Associated Press Writer

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) -- The military accused the United States on Thursday of sponsoring a clandestine radio station as part of an attempt to undermine the Panamanian government.

The military press office claimed that Radio Constitucional is operated by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, which, it contended, is part of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In a communique, the press office said the broadcast service is responsible for gathering and processing information on everything that happens in Latin America, especially in Panama. It said the operation works out of the former Panama Canal Zone.

The U.S. Embassy denied that Radio Constitucional has anything to do with the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

It said in a prepared statement that Foreign Broadcast has been a part of the embassy since 1979, and that it gathers information from newspapers and radio and television broadcasts and sends it to Washington.

The embassy statement said the reports are open to the public and available to foreign governments by subscription.

Before becoming a function of the embassy, Foreign Broadcast was a part of the U.S. Southern Command, it added. The command is the headquarters for U.S. military activities in Latin America.

Radio Constitucional operates with a very weak signal and is difficult to hear. It apparently is operated by Panamanians opposed to the civilian government under the control of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Few listeners have been able to find the station or keep the signal tuned in for long.

The military, through news releases and sympathetic or controlled news media, accuses the United States almost daily of plotting to undermine the government.

The press release did not go into specifics about the type of programming the station transmits.

The United States is seeking to oust Noriega, who is head of the 15,000-member Panama Defense Forces and the power behind the government. Noriega was indicted in February in Florida on federal drug smuggling charges.

The Reagan administration has imposed economic sanctions against Panama in an effort to force out Noriega.

Msg#:14402 *FREE RADIO*
08/05/88 18:32:05 (Read 9 Times)
From: JIM GARRITY
To: ALL
Subj: RNI

The following is a news release from Alan Weiner of Radio New York International dated July 21, 1988. Copies of this memo have been distributed to the news media in general, but I feel that the DX media will find it of interest as well.

MEMO BEGINS:

One year ago Radio New York International's Ship, The Sarah, dropped anchor in International Waters four and one half miles off Long Island, New York. After four days of broadcasting, the

Ship was illegally seized by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Communications Commission. Once on board, they proceeded to destroy the radio station. One day later, the generator room was flooded. Needing repairs, the Ship went on to Boston Harbor, where she was moored for the rest of the summer and into the winter, while repairs were made, at great expense to the R.N.I. staff. On Sunday, July 17, one week ago, the owners of the Sarah attempted to move their vessel to anchorage out of Boston Harbor in preparation for a return voyage to International Waters. Shortly after she set sail, the Boston Coast Guard INTERCEPTED the Ship and ordered it to go back. The Sarah had to return to it's mooring.

It seems apparent that the U.S. Coast Guard is not going to allow the Sarah to leave Boston Harbor. The owners are now in negotiation with the Coast Guard officials. "We are trying our best to comply with all the requirements of the Coast Guard, but I feel that whatever we do, they are just not going to let us out" says Alan Weiner, Chief Engineer and owner of the vessel Sarah. Randi Steele, Operations Manager of R.N.I. states: "This action by the Coast Guard in keeping the Sarah in Boston Harbor amounts to an unconstitutional prior restraint of a communications vessel. As a radio broadcasting ship owned and operated by American citizens, this illegal restraint is a clear denial of our First Amendment rights."

END OF MEMO

Logged on at 22:27:23
Logged off at 22:32:48

Thank you for calling the ANARC BBS

ACE-ON-TAPE

The ACE-ON-TAPE will provide a super effective way to introduce radio hobbyist to pirate/ clandestine (p/c) broadcast listening. A thirty minute cassette tape will be professionally produced that will let potential ACE members not read, but actually hear p/c broadcast. The tape will begin with a verbal description of ACE, its newsletter, philosophy, and projections for the future along with both studio and off-the-air tape segments of actual past p/c broadcast. Our goal is to complete this tape within ONE month. We need tapes of both studio quality and strong signal off-the-air recordings representing the best of p/c radio. We also need a volunteer to do the narration. The narrator will be provided with a script and must have a professional voice along with professional recording equipment to produce the narration tape. It should be provided to publishing headquarters on high quality (type II or IV) cassette tape. Final editing including dubbing of the broadcast will be done at the studio in Baton Rouge. This tape will be provided to all at cost. It is a promotional tool and not designed as a money-making project. If you want to get involved in this extremely high quality project, get a little fame, and further the hobby, please contact Keith Thibodeaux immediately via letter, or ACE BBS.

QSLing THE PIRATES

by Scott McClellan

As if hearing pirates wasn't a big enough challenge, trying to obtain QSL verifications from these stations can be even more difficult. Some stations are very good verifiers, responding to correct and complete reception reports within a few weeks. Other stations don't even announce a mailing address. And still, others fall between these two extremes.

The purpose of this article is to give you some hints and tips to maximize your chances at verifying those elusive stations.

In order to QSL a pirate, you must hear it first! As silly as it may seem, more than a few people have tried to "verify" transmissions which they never heard, by taking program details from club newsletters and making phony reports. Fortunately, these reports are usually easy to spot, and go into the round file. And the DXer's reputation also goes into the dumpster!

Hearing pirates can be difficult, but the key word is **persistence**. It is a matter of being at the right spot on the dial at the right time, and the more time you spend at your receiver, the better your chances are. (Ed. note - study the recent bulletins to determine the time of day, and day of week, that most pirates are broadcasting. This information changes frequently, mostly as a reaction to changing DX conditions, so don't limit yourself to just those previously used frequencies.) Chances are that if you have a reasonably sensitive and selective receiver, an outdoor antenna, and lots of patience, you'll log several pirates a month. DXers in the eastern part of the U.S. will usually have better luck than those in the west, as most stations seem to be in the east of midwest. But those in the west just need to try a little harder; although pirates are low powered, the signals are often heard coast to coast.

So, now that you have nabbed the station you've been trying six months to hear, how do you get that QSL?

How to Report

The most obvious thing you need when sending a report is an address to use. Many, but not all, pirates utilize the services of a mail drop. A mail drop will collect the reports for a station, and forward them on to the operators. From that point on, it's entirely up to the station to decide if you deserve a QSL.

A station will usually announce its mail drop address several times during the course of a transmission, along with any special requirements, such as how much postage needs to be sent.

But, what if you don't hear any address announced? How will you be able to send in a report? Unfortunately, some stations just are not interested in QSLing, and therefore do not have a mail drop. In this case, you are just plain out of luck. But, perhaps you tuned in too late to hear the address announcement, or just did not have a good enough signal to enable you to copy it clear-

ly. If you belong to a DX club, you may be in luck. Check through issues of your club bulletins to see if anyone else may have reported a previous broadcast. If so, the address might be listed. Your best bet is to belong to one of the clubs that specializes in unlicensed transmissions. As of press time, the only such club in North America is the Association of Clandestine Radio Enthusiast (A²C²E).

This club publishes a monthly bulletin packed with timely information, and it regularly features the "Free Radio Directory" compiled by John T. Arthur, which lists all known station addresses. You can also check communications magazines, as a last resort. Unfortunately, such magazines suffer from being out-of-date long before the issue even goes to print...often the information you will find is several months old. Things change fast in the world of pirate radio!

Okay, you have the address. Now what?

In preparing a reception report, there are certain bits of information you must give about your reception. You have to prove you heard the station. There are also certain items you can include in your report...things that might not be necessary to prove your reception, but that will increase the odds that the station will appreciate your letter, therefore increasing the chances that it will respond to it. And getting the station to respond is the whole point, isn't it! Here is a guide on what a report should contain:

Frequency of Reception: Give this as accurately as your receiver will permit. Also whether or not if any drifting of the frequency was apparent.

Date of Reception: Give this both in your local time and in GMT if they are different. 10:00 p.m. EST on January 1st local time would equal 0300 the next day - January 2nd - in GMT terms.

Time of Reception: Again, give this in your local time, and in GMT. If you are not familiar with GMT (sometimes called UTC), you can sometimes get by with just giving your local time when reporting to pirates, but most shortwave hobbyist think in terms of GMT, and you should try to as well. A conversion chart can be found in most shortwave books intended for beginners in the hobby.

Program Details: This is where many reports fall short. A simple listing of "music, talk, music, ID, talk..." proves nothing. Be as specific as possible. List song titles, when known, or at least the type of music you heard, whether the singer was male or female, etc. When the announcer talks, mention what he said. You don't have to give a word by word transcription, but exact wording of ID announcements makes for excellent program detail. If a comedy routine was heard, don't just say "you played comedy," give the subject the routine was about, too. In short, be specific, but don't overdo it. Be precise and to the point. The details should cover at least 10 to 15 minutes of programming. If you only heard the last five minutes of a program, you can still try sending a report, but giving good details is even more important. Listing details for the entire program doesn't hurt any, and in fact may indicate to the station that its program kept your interest.

Reception Quality: Using the SINPO (or SINFO) code is okay, but you should still have a

brief paragraph describing the reception. For example: "Your signal was fairly strong, reading S7 on my meter, but suffered from slight interference from a utility station. Atmospheric noise was slight, and fading was moderate. Overall quality was fairly good. I'd rate your signal SINPO-34433."

Audio Quality: Another area which many reports neglect, but is of great interest to the station: How did the audio sound to you? If it was good, say so...if you thought it was outstanding, say so...if it was distorted, say so! Did it sound overmodulated? Undermodulated? Was it clean and crisp, or muffled and mushy? If it was less than par, be careful how you critique it. Be honest, but don't be blunt.

Receiver Information: Tell the station what kind of radio and accessories you used to hear their signal. Don't forget to say what kind of antenna was used.

Postage: Most stations will announce what they require for return postage. The usual requirement is three first class stamps. A few stations only ask for a SASE. Follow the requirement announced when known, and when in doubt, enclose three twenty-five cent stamps.

Extras: A little extra effort can go a long way toward getting that QSL. Most stations love to hear a cassette recording of their signal as heard far away. If you do send a cassette, be sure to throw in some extra stamps, since it costs extra to mail. Some stations might even return your tape to you, with a "studio quality" recording of some of their programs. A little personal information about yourself is usually of some interest, such as your age, occupation, how long you have listened to shortwave and pirates, how many other pirates you've logged, etc. Tell the station what you thought of its program. If you didn't exactly like it, give some suggestions as to what you would like to hear. Many other things can be done to make your report stand out...use your imagination!

Timeliness: The sooner your report is in the mail, the more interesting it will be to the station. A report that arrives a month after the transmission is not all that interesting, since the station has likely received several reports already...so it already knows how well its signal got out. In fact, old reports may just be ignored by some stations. It is best to get the report in the mail within a couple of days after hearing the station. Many stations will verify old reports out of courtesy, but why take the chance? If you wait too long, you may not only have to prove your reception, but also give enough detail to prove that you didn't take the details out of a club bulletin!

If you follow the guidelines above, your chances at receiving a QSL from any particular pirate station will be increased. It still won't guarantee a QSL will be forthcoming, but you will know you have given it your best shot. If a QSL has not arrived within a few months, and you know that the station sent QSLs to other listeners, you can try sending a follow-up report, which ideally should be a copy of the original report you sent, with a note attached explaining why you are sending another one. Or better yet, hear the station again and send a fresh report. Follow-up reports should also contain the postage the station asked for.

Happy QSLing!

Important Notice

Permission to reprint material contained in the "Free Aire" publications (formerly known as "The A*C*E") is granted with the exception of work which holds a specific copyright, provided written credit is given to the A*C*E on the same page on which the A*C*E material is reprinted. All material contained in the "Free Aire" Publication is the property of the author, who assumes full responsibility for said material. The A*C*E editor and/or its publisher bears no responsibility, implied or expressed, for the content of this newsletter.

What is ACE?

The Association of Clandestine Radio Enthusiasts (ACE) is a club dedicated to the monitoring of unlicensed, unusual, unexplained, and unofficial radio broadcasts. If your interest include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcast, and covert communications, ACE's publication "Free Aire" is of interest to you.

Pirates: "Free Aire" is famous for its thorough coverage of a subject that has been controversial in shortwave circles for years. Some general shortwave club newsletters refuse to print pirate loggings because column editors do not like

pirates. We want you to have information which helps you hear the interesting, often outspoken and satirical programming these stations offer. Our pirate loggings editor, seven year veteran Kirk Baxter, each month brings loggings and comments to our readers.

Euro-Pirates: Across the Atlantic, Europe is a hot-bed of pirate activity. Being seldom heard in the US, "Free Aire" relies on the mysterious Podney Sixe for loggings and other news of the Euro-

information for US pirate stations with "The Directory" which is published quarterly in "Free Aire".

Clandestine Confidential: Defined as unlicensed transmissions containing messages aimed at achieving social and/or political change, and generally not in English, clandestine broadcast can provide some of the most challenging and rewarding DX. George Zeller has established himself as one of the experts in this field. His monthly column provides commentary, insight and most importantly, hard to get answers to many of the questions that surface in this area.

Technicalities: Due to return soon, our master of the "Freedom of Information Act", Bill Martin brings not only past accounts of pirate bust and histories, but also articles of technical background.

Covert Corner: A rework of the old "Spy Centre" column covers not only the often unofficially explained "spy numbers" stations, CC delves into the entire covert spectrum. From drug runners to criminal communications to spys to unacknowledged military communications this is the most unpredictable challenge in DXing.

pirate scene.

Veried Response: Six year veteran John Arthur, well known in the hobby for outspoken, sometimes argumentative point of view, provides editorials along with reader response, and QSL response reports from members. John also provides what is probably the only source of QSL

ACE Annual Membership Dues (includes one year subscription to "Free Aire")

United States and possessions.....	\$15.00
Canada.....	\$16.00
World Air Mail.....	\$18.00
Sample Issue.....	\$ 1.50

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